

**THE WORKER SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



# **BULLETIN**



**THE WORKER BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



**ANNIVERSARY AND  
RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT  
December 2020**

**Bulletin Cover - *The Simplicity of The Nativity* - photo from a Christmas Card**

As our Christmas celebrations are limited by the Covid-19 Pandemic, let us remember the isolation of Mary and Joseph as they awaited the arrival of their baby Jesus. Perhaps we can now relate to the experience of not knowing what the future may bring and rest in the fact that all will be well as we trust God, one day at a time.

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**Community Communication Contacts:**

**Prayer Requests and News Notes for the monthly Bulletin** - email Br. Ephrem, andrews8484@hotmail.com or see green sheets for his mailing address.

**Changes of address, phone numbers, email addresses** - email Sr. Christine casturges@gmail.com or Sr. Wendy Samuel virtue54@outlook.com or see green sheets for mailing addresses.

**Urgent Community Prayer Requests for email distribution** – email or call Sr. LaVerne Peter: Callaghgan@aol.com, Sr. Christine: casturges@gmail.com or Sr. Wendy Samuel: virtue54@outlook.com

**Financial Contributions –**

Members residing in the U.S., make checks payable to WSHS/WBHS and mail to:  
Sr. Nancy Teresa, WSHS, Treasurer, United States, 12900 Glenwood Street, Apt. 108, Overland Park, KS 66209

If you pay any bills through your bank, you can easily send your contributions to WSHS the same way. Use the address above to send your check. You can make a one-time payment or a recurring payment. If you have questions, your bank will be happy to help you. And - you don't need any postage!

Members residing in Canada, make cheques payable to WSHS/WBHS and mail to Br. David, WBHS, Treasurer, Canada. 2170 Preston Road, Cavan Monaghan, Ontario, K9J 0G5 Canada

**Contributions to Haiti Clean Water Project –**

Check contributions to the Haiti Clean Water Project may be mailed to Sr. Alexandra Francis, WSHS 7711 E Waverly Street, Tucson, AZ 85715.

**Please make your check payable to Alexandra Zarris.** Put “WSHS Haiti Clean Water” in the memo line.

**Problems Receiving your Bulletin** - If you are not receiving the monthly Bulletin (by regular mail or by email), please email or call **Sr. Christine, not Trina.** Thank you.

**If a friend expresses interest in WSHS/WBHS, remember to direct them to our website, [www.workersisters.org](http://www.workersisters.org), [www.workerbrothers.org](http://www.workerbrothers.org)**

<b>THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT</b>	
Web Addresses: <a href="http://workersisters.org">workersisters.org</a> <a href="http://workerbrothers.org">workerbrothers.org</a>	
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Sr. Sharron Magdalene, WSHS	Proof Reader
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Br. Ephrem, WBHS	News Notes and Prayer List
Shirley Pace, WSHS	Calendar
Sr. Christine, WSHS	Co-Director
Sr. Wendy Samuel, WSHS	Co-Director
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**CALENDAR**
**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS  
DECEMBER 2020**
**CORPORATE COMMUNIONS**

Corporate Communion and meetings are held monthly where members are within physical proximity of each other. Currently these gatherings are taking place in the following locations. For more information, please contact the Community member listed below.

Ontario, Canada  
 Kansas City, MO USA  
 Southern MO USA  
 Pleasant Hill, TN USA  
 Arizona USA  
 Illinois USA

Br. David, WBHS  
 Sr. Dorothy Cecilia, WSHS  
 Sr. Barbara Veronica, WBHS  
 Sr. Janeen Julian, WSHS  
 Ginny Berkey, WSHS  
 Sr. Diane Richard, WSHS

**COPORATE COMMUNIONS FOR 2020**

**December 12**

**Call to Prayer.** Please remember our Community in prayer twice a day 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM in your time zone and pray for World Peace at Noon.



**8:00 AM - Prayer for our Community  
 12:00 Noon - Prayer for World Peace  
 5:00 PM - Prayer for our Community**

## THE WORKER SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ANNIVERSARY OF OUR FOUNDING

In December we celebrate the **48th Anniversary of the founding of Workers Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit.**

For those who are alone, please read this Service of Recommitment in a quiet place where you can take time to offer thanksgiving for this special Community to which we belong.

As we prepare to renew our commitment to our Community, let us take a moment to reflect on what our commitment is.

### **The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit**

#### ***The Companion Life Commitment from WSHS/WBHS Admission Service***

A Companion is a person under a Rule of Life who will

- Pray daily for The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit.
- Offer special intention for the Community at a weekly Eucharist or Corporate Worship.
- Keep informed about the growth and development of the Community.
- Send a yearly letter on the Feast of Pentecost to the Companion Coordinator.
- Make a yearly contribution to the Community.
- Cultivate a continuing awareness of their relationship with God which extends to the nurture of body, mind and spirit.

***The Lay Worker Life Commitment (This includes Sisters and Brothers) from WSHS/WBHS Admission Service***

I commit myself for life to a covenant relationship with God through the Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit. I hold as essential to our Rule, Mission, and Community Life, our fourfold commitment. I therefore dedicate myself to Jesus Christ, to the Fruit of the Spirit, to Mission and to Ministry.

From the Table of Contents of the Rule of Life for Lay Workers

- Daily Personal Prayer
- Daily Communal Prayer
- Daily Reading of the Sacred Scriptures
- Daily Participation in an Act of the Fruit of the Spirit
- Receive Communion Weekly (if available)
- Monthly Communication with the Community by Letter
- Monthly Financial Contribution to the Community
- Active Participation in the Life of the WSHS/WBHS Community
- Active Participation in the Life of the Church

**The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit**

*Although **WSHS Friends** do not make a life commitment, we want to remember their role in WSHS and thank them for their ongoing prayers for the Community.*

A Friend is a person who:

- Is interested in the development and growth of Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit.
- Is committed to praying for the Community.
- Is on a personal pilgrimage.
- Desires to learn more from the life journeys of others.
- Wishes to receive the thoughts, prayers and caring concerns of this Community.
- Makes an annual contribution.
- Receives and wears the Community pin.

## **The Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit Annual Renewal of Commitment**

### **OFFICIANT:**

In recognition that:

December 1972 is the anniversary of the founding of The Worker Sisters of the Holy Spirit and December 1979 is the beginning of The Worker Brothers of the Holy Spirit, would you now reaffirm your commitment in this Community?

### **COMMUNITY:**

Recognizing the continuing presence of God in the process of my spiritual growth, and honoring my commitment which I made for life, I pause to reflect upon its meaning and seek revitalization in living it out.

I will continue to be faithful and obedient to my Rule of Life.

I will continue to reflect on my personal and spiritual growth.

I will continue to encourage and support the members of the Community and our leadership.

I will endeavor to continue active participation in the life of the church and represent Jesus Christ as his servant in a caring compassionate manner in this suffering world.

**OFFICIANT:** Would you now repeat the Covenant of our Community?

### **COMMUNITY:**

We, the Community of the Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit, in adoration of God and in thanksgiving for God's protective love for us do covenant faithfully to trust in God's unconditional grace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As we participate in Jesus Christ's vision of unity, may we become his holy people, respond as we are called by the promptings of the Holy Spirit to show forth fruit, and, in obedience to His command, go forth into the world.

### **OFFICIANT:**

May Almighty God, who has called you to serve in this holy life, give you power to fulfill your commitment through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

*December 2020*



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**COMMUNITY CHANGES**

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*Please make the following alterations to your Green Sheets*

**The following changes will be made to the Green Sheets.**

**Remember, if you want to view or download an updated copy, go to [workersisters.org](http://workersisters.org),**

**Click on More, then click on MEMBER PAGES**

**The USERNAME is: [WSHS.WBHS@gmail.com](mailto:WSHS.WBHS@gmail.com)**

**The current password is: Angela45**

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**Br. George** has moved and has a new mailing address:

Br. George, WBHS

228 McClennan Street

Peterborough, Ontario K9H 5H9 Canada

He has a new phone number: 705-874-1369

His email is still: [hampsta@cogeco.ca](mailto:hampsta@cogeco.ca)

**Sr. Kathleen Rachel** has moved. Her new mailing address is:

Sr. Kathleen Rachel, WSHS

3540 Crimson Court

Port Huron, MI 48060

Her phone number and email address stay the same.

**Sr. Linda Thomas** has moved and has a new mailing address:

Sr. Linda Thomas, WSHS

629 NW Willow Drive

Lee's Summit, MO 64081

Her phone remains the same: 816-876-9540.

Her email address is: [srlindathomas@aol.com](mailto:srlindathomas@aol.com)



## 2020 CO-DIRECTORS' REPORT

### Positions in the Community and current staff 2020

#### **American Board of Directors**

President - Sr. Nancy Teresa  
 Secretary – Sr. Nancy Clare  
 Assoc. Secretary – Br. Peter Nicholas  
 Treasurer - Sr. Nancy Teresa

#### **Canadian Board of Directors**

President – Sr. Wendy Samuel  
 Vice President – Sr. Carol Matthew  
 Secretary - Sr. Deborah  
 Treasurer – Br. David

#### **Elected members**

Sr. Brenda Faith  
 Sr. LaVerne Peter  
 Br. Raymond Gregory  
 Sr. Pam Raphael

#### **Elected members**

Sr. Helen Joseph  
 Sr. Jane Bartimaeus  
 Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley

#### **By virtue of office**

American Director  
 Canadian Director  
 Prioress

#### **By virtue of office**

American Director  
 Canadian Director  
 Prioress

**Prioress:** Sr. LaVerne Peter, WSHS

**Co-Directors:** Sr. Christine, WSHS and Sr. Wendy Samuel, WSHS

**Community Chaplain:** Sr. Brenda Faith, WSHS

**Chapter:** see current Directory List

#### **Community Ecclesiastical Visitors:**

The Rt. Rev Peter Fenty WSHS/WBHS – Canada, Australia  
 The Rt. Rev Barry R. Howe, Friend, WSHS/WBHS – United States, Haiti

**Director of Formation and Training:** Sr. Helen Joseph, WSHS

**Director of Admissions:** Sr. Lucia, WSHS

**Coordinator of Worker Applicants:** Sr. Patsy Anne, WSHS

**Acting Coordinator of Lay Worker Program:** Sr. Helen Joseph, WSHS

**Coordinator of Novices:** Sr. Nancy Clare, WSHS

**Coordinator of Companion and Friends:** Sr. Pam Raphael, WSHS

**Coordinator of International Affairs:** Sr. Carol Matthew, WSHS

**Provincials:**

**Eastern Province** – Sr. Barbara Veronica, WSHS

**Central Province** - Sr. Dorothy Cecilia, WSHS

**Western Province** - Sr. Diane Richard, WSHS

**Southern Province** – Open

**Cluster Leaders and Mentors - see current Directory**

**Community Numbers:**

Sisters.....	42(45)	Previous Year
Novices .....	0 (0)	Previous Year
Workers, WSHS.....	12 (15)	Previous Year
Worker Applicants, WSHS.....	3 (1)	Previous Year
Brothers .....	7 (6)	Previous Year
Workers, WBHS .....	2 (3)	Previous Year
Worker Applicants, WBHS .....	0 (0)	Previous Year
Companions.....	25 (24)	Previous Year
Companion Applicants .....	0 (0)	Previous Year
Friends .....	25 (23)	Previous Year (Melissa Bowers changed from Worker to Friend)
Friend Applicants .....	0 (3)	Previous Year

101 residents of the United States

11 residents of Canada

1 resident in Australia

2 residents of Haiti: The Sisters of St. Margaret, Friends & Br. Frantz Benedict

1 resident in Africa

**Total 116 Previous Year 118**

**New Sisters:**

**New Brothers:** Brother George

**New Novices:** None

**New Lay Worker Applicants:** Krista Baker, Letty Guevara-Cuence, Kaelynn Judd

**New Lay Workers:** None

**New Companions:** Erin Diericx and Sari Jn-Francois

**New Companion Applicants:** None

**New Friend Applicants:** None

**New Friends:** Ken Nolan

**Communion of Saints:** 100 (94) Previous Year

**TOTAL (including Communion of Saints) . . . . . 216 (212) Previous Year**

**Communion of Saints**

Sr. Beverly Priscilla

The Rev. Kermit Smith

Sr. Beulah Grace

Jean Kinmonth

Sandra Bowers, Friend

Katherine Vogel, Friend

**Release and/or Writ of Dispensation** - Melissa Bowers

**Close of Applicancy** - none

**Chapter Meetings**

Each Fall the Chapter Meets to discuss the business of the Community and to pray and flesh out our next year’s theme. This Chapter Retreat is a time of listening, planning and acting on the promptings of The Holy Spirit in governing the direction and future of Our Community. Our Chapter is supported in prayer by the entire Community during this Retreat.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year’s retreat was conducted by Zoom.

**New American Board Member** – Br. Peter Nicholas, Secretary

**Board of Directors Meetings**

The American Board of Directors meets at Fall Chapter (conducted by Zoom). This spring the Canadian Board of Directors met via Zoom. Reports from each Board are shared.

**Monthly Corporate Communion**

Normal years Corporate Communion would have been held in:

Michigan USA

Southern Missouri

Southern Ontario, Canada

Kansas City, Missouri

Pleasant Hill, Tennessee

Illinois

Tucson, Arizona

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic Corporate Communion were not held monthly where members are within physical proximity of others. The past year, where members had the appropriate technology, Corporate Communions were held via Zoom.

### **Informal Gatherings of our Community**

Gatherings are held when 2 or 3 members are visiting in the area with other members of our Community. This takes place in various States and Provinces. Where possible, these meetings have been held via Zoom.

### **The Worker Sisters/Brothers of the Holy Spirit Bulletin**

As we continue to grow internationally with many members living apart from each other, the monthly *Bulletin* is our primary source of communication and a vital link to each other across the miles.

*We are thankful for the regular contributions to our Bulletin as follows:*

**News Notes and Prayer Lists** - Br. Ephrem

**Monthly Calendars** - Sr. Shirley Evangeline, WSHS

**Haiti Articles** - Sr. Alexandra Francis, WSHS

**Spiritual Sharing and Mission and Ministry** - compiled by our Provincials

**Bulletin Preparation and Proofing** - Sr. Christine, Sr. Deborah, Sr. Sharron Magdalene

**Annual Contribution Commitment Letter** - Sr. Nancy Teresa, Treasurer

We are also thankful to Sr. Dorothy Gregory for making our habits as required and for Sr. Barbara Rebecca for ordering golf shirts.

In addition, the following members of our Community and others have committed their time and energy writing articles for our Bulletin this year.

Sr. Nancy Clare, Sr. Paula Adelaide, Sr. Mary Govan, Sr. Kathleen Columb, Marya Pohlmeier, Br. Peter Nicholas, Marilyn Propp, Sr. Arlie Mirren, Father Harry, Sr. Catherine Marie, Sr. Carol Matthew

### **2020 Theme: Celtic Worship**

#### **Monthly Bulletin Topics**

January – *The Journey* – The Peregrinatio (inward/outward-place of your resurrection-continua conversion)

February – *The Celtic Connection* with the desert fathers & mothers - monastic transition – community life

March – *Creation is Sacred* (matter matters)

April – *The Invisible World* (pray always; pray all ways) (no barriers/separations; Celtic knot)

May – *Prayer* – We join the prayer within the “ruah” – Prayer begins and ends with God

June – *Heroic Christ* (as warrior – sin is real – but not self-defeating guilt)

July – *The Love of Learning* (art, music, story-telling, imagination, celebrations)

August – *Blessing of Everything*

September – *The Trinity* – importance of three’s

October – *Soul Friend* – Anam Cara (friend of the heart)

November – *Celtic Hospitality*

December – *Anniversary and Renewal* of our life commitment to our Community

### **47th Retreat: Celtic Spirituality**

Held Via Zoom – 3 consecutive Saturdays – May 9, 16 & 23th, 2020 – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Presenter:** Carl McColman, Friend, WSHS

**Participants:** All members of WSHS who were able to access Zoom

### **Yellow Letters**

Our monthly Yellow letter is a means of communication between Cluster Leaders and members. It affords each member the opportunity to reflect upon his or her spiritual journey during the past month. Members are also asked to respond to the article relating to the topic of the month. The writing of the Yellow letter is part of the Rule and discipline of the Community.

### **Provincial and Cluster Leader Reports**

Twice a year Cluster Leaders report on the activity of their Cluster and on each individual member's spiritual journey and commitment to the Rule of Life. Cluster Leaders send their reports to their Provincial, who forwards them to the respective Directors

### **Other forms of Communication**

Our Website is a link to the world and is a continual work in progress.

[www.workersisters.org](http://www.workersisters.org), [www.workerbrothers.org](http://www.workerbrothers.org).

Br. David, WBHS forwards e-mail emergency prayer requests to Brothers, Sisters, Workers and Applicants. Marilyn Propp, WSHS forwards the prayer requests to Companions and Friends. Those members not on e-mail are contacted by telephone or mailed copies of the request. This method of communicating our prayer requests is working well.

A monthly prayer list is also printed and included in the *Bulletin*. This list contains requests for prayer by Community members, for other Community members, non-Community friends and family, and for the world.

Sister Charlotte Mary keeps in touch with the families of Our Communion of Saints with cards on the anniversary of their deaths.

### **Haiti Clean Water Project**

We attempted to continue this year with the Haiti Clean Water Project. Our members were purchasing water purification tablets and having them shipped to Rev. Frantz Cole for his ministry in Haiti. Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley takes delivery from a source in Canada and ships them to Haiti monthly. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all shipments to Haiti were suspended until such time as the government allows shipments to resume. Thank you to Alexandra Zarris, WSHS for coordinating the project and Sr. Betty-Lou Shirley for her diligence in checking for resumption of postal service to Haiti.

### Quilts

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and difficulty in postal service, this project has been suspended at this time.

**Retreat 2021 is still being scheduled to be held at  
The Mercy Center, St. Louis, Missouri April 29-May 3, 2021**

**Theme:** Teach Us to Pray  
**Presenter:** Carl McColman

**Chapter 2021, God willing, will be held at  
Conception Abbey in Conception, Missouri Fall of 2021**

Respectfully submitted by,  
*Sr. Christine, Co-Director, WSHS*  
*Sr. Wendy Samuel, Co-Director, WSHS*



### SPIRITUAL SHARING

I had a loving and compassionate family and we were caring towards one another. We ate all our dinners together as a family. But at the same time, there were painful events. My sister and I are the only girls and we love one another very dearly. My maternal and paternal grandmothers both had the same name. Since my sister was the older, she was named for them. I was named for my Godmother's father. My sister was favored by my father because of being the first born girl and namesake. As adults, my sister tried to apologize for it and I told her, that was not her fault and there was nothing to forgive. My father truly loved all of us and we loved him. We grew up and left all this in our childhood.

\*\*\*\*\*

I did enjoy the article on soul friends and immediately thought of Sr. Bette Patrick. She was instrumental in the Community, and continued to be a spiritual guide and mentor to me. When I was going through my divorce, my daughter and I moved into a small cottage just 2 doors from Sr. Bette and Sherman. I have a picture of Sherman with my newborn grandson (about 90 years age difference). She was a very strong woman and I treasure all the memories I have of her.

\*\*\*\*\*

Even the words "Anam Cara", soul friend, brings a happy solitude when I think it and say it. I have had a few, very few, real soul friends. Those who "get it" and what a blessing they are. My mother's sister, my Aunt Louise, is one precious soul friend. She is 13 years older than me so most likely our shared time here on earth is limited. The years we have shared have been a true gift.

\*\*\*\*\*

I find I rely on God to be my soul friend. After all He knows me inside and out, for good, for bad and He gets it.

\*\*\*\*\*

As I think back on my years with the Community, I am grateful for the formative years I spent growing up in the love of the Community. Today, I had an overwhelming sense of gratitude for all the blessings I have received in being a part of something more than my own little place in this world.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sr. Margie was a loss of one of my soul friends. When I was distant, she would write and pray for me. She would make me feel loved, cherished, and valued no matter what I did. The last two Retreats she attended we were roomies. I think that the leaders gave up on trying to make us keep the great silence because since 1982, if we were at Retreat together, Sr. Angela or Sr. LaVerne would catch us breaking it and shush us. It was a lost cause. She continues to be with me to this day.

\*\*\*\*\*

It is different thinking of Jesus as our soul friend. It makes the relationship more intimate and scarier at the same time. Yes, He knows all but to admit all to Him, well that is just so vulnerable and trusting. We say we have a friend in Jesus (the old song) but do I really treat Him as a friend or just as something not so intimate?

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you, Fr. Harry for sharing your wonderful dream of being with your Scottish great grandfather in the boat with the other disciples. That dream must have been so satisfying and such a joyful example of a circle where we all are connected in so many ways, now unseen. No beginning/no end/ an unending circle of the divine dance.

\*\*\*\*\*

It's been a great theme for this year to focus on the simple wonder of life and its blessings all around us, to realize the importance of relationships and hospitality and also the circle of those persons around us, seen and unseen. The pandemic year has been difficult for so many in so many ways. We ask God to help us reaffirm that we remain a community who need one another and who must continue to reach out beyond ourselves through the help of the Trinity.

\*\*\*\*\*

I read a quote on the Trinity from Meister Eckhart that speaks to me, "I find God to be like someone who would hide in the dark, yet who loudly clears his throat in order to give his presence away. God hides in waiting, waiting to give us love; not only waiting but acting, speaking, pouring out. All creatures flow out of God yet remain within. Creation does not stand outside of God, nor alongside, nor beyond. All created things are in God's circle so that they may flow out and return. Such knowledge should give us all joy, an exuberance that fills the land. Just as God laughed and begot the Son, then together Jesus and the Father laughed and begot the Spirit, so we must laugh so that God is born in us and in our darkened world." This is an understanding of the Trinity that I can get excited about. It is inclusive and transformative. It is full of creativity and endless possibilities! Just as the Celts trusted St. Patrick's teaching of the Trinity and relied on God to deepen their understanding with time, I too can rest in this teaching and allow God to reveal more to me as our relationship grows.

\*\*\*\*\*

The rich history of Ireland and the spirituality of the Celts make the idea of "Thin Places" very real and meaningful to me. When I go out into my backyard and look out over the fields and trees, I feel a great spiritual connection to God. Perhaps this is my "Thin Place."

\*\*\*\*\*

I find "thin places" in the woods myself. There is a small, wooded park in Woodstock (where my office is) with paths and a pond, and my mother's memorial recycled plastic plank bench. I often go there on my lunch hour and walk through. God seems more accessible there.

\*\*\*\*\*

I have really enjoyed the Celtic Christianity theme this year. How appropriate it turned out to be when we have all been forced into a much simpler lifestyle by this pandemic. I really appreciated the well-researched overview followed by the various voices of other members who added their own viewpoints. They have all given me much to ponder from the importance of three in Christian and pre-Christian thought, the veil that clouds our vision of the world and the beautiful pictures of Celtic sites that have made me long to be able to travel again. I think my favorite was Brother Peter's image of Jesus as the medieval Celtic Knight. Unfortunately, our lives and spiritual journeys are often battlefields and it is good to have a warrior Jesus fighting alongside us.